

negotiations due to its diversity and security, which offered an environment where the warring parties could focus on negotiating peace out of the spotlight of the media and away from distracting geopolitical pressures.

The Dayton community unexpectedly became part of the process as its people became proud to be part of history, holding candlelight vigils, placing 'candles of peace' in their front windows, congratulating and praying for the negotiators, forming a human peace chain around Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and continuing to study peace and human rights based on the community's experiences hosting these historic negotiations.

The negotiators highlighted Ohio's ethnic diversity to show the warring parties that people from disparate ethnic histories could live everyday life in peace; and the Dayton Peace Accords provided a framework and common agreement to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) implementation and stabilization force missions which provided security for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia.

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize, established in 2006, remains the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States, and continues the legacy of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords by honoring authors who write about peace and whose work provides enduring literary value.

The Dayton International Peace Museum in downtown Dayton, a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization, is one of the few community-based institutions with a focus on peace in the United States, and the Museum honors Dayton's history as the host of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, offering nonpartisan educational programs and exhibits featuring themes of non-violent conflict resolution, social justice issues, international relations, and peace.

Mr. Speaker, the Dayton, Ohio, community supported the peace negotiations and worked to create a strong, lasting relationship with Bosnia and Herzegovina by hosting numerous visiting delegations, creating a sister city relationship with Sarajevo, and hosting an international anniversary commemoration. Bosnia and Herzegovina has received a conditional Membership Action Plan to join NATO pending continued progress on reforms. Croatia is progressing on the path to join the EU, became a NATO member in 2009, and has deployed troops around the world, including in Afghanistan, fighting alongside the United States Armed Forces to bring peace, stability, and prosperity to others. The Montenegrin Parliament declared independence from Serbia on June 3, 2006, and thus created a multi-ethnic country with a viable economy, professional military and democratic institutions.

The entire State of Ohio has contributed to stability and prosperity in the Balkan region by fostering an exemplary relationship between the Ohio National Guard and the Serbian Armed Forces; and the Dayton Peace Accords effectively ended the conflict, created a multi-ethnic country in the Balkans, and addressed topics critical to the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including regional stabilization, a constitutional framework, the repatriation of refugees, and internal security.

## HONORING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HILL-MURRAY

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the students, alumni, parents, faculty and staff of Hill-Murray School in Maplewood, Minnesota on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. This educational institution has a distinguished record on academics, community involvement and athletic success.

Archbishop Murray Memorial high school was founded in 1958 by the Benedictine Sisters as a school for young women. In 1959, just a few blocks down the street, the Christian Brothers founded the Hill High School as a school for boys. Classes officially began in both schools in 1951, and in 1971 the schools merged and the Hill-Murray School was born.

During the past 50 years, Hill-Murray has strived for excellence in all areas. Its mission statement declares the school "is committed to developing creative and responsible leaders for tomorrow's world who will provide effective moral leadership in their local and global communities". This charge is reflected in both the school's design and its results: from its students, 92% of whom enroll in post-high school educational institutions; to its classrooms, where the student-teacher ratio is 14:1; and to its teachers 79% of whom hold advanced degrees and 80% of whom have more than 5 years of experience.

Following the school's mission to prepare students not only for college but for the broader journey of life, Hill-Murray students in grades nine through twelve complete two service requirements per year helping the economically disadvantaged, the physically or mentally impaired, and the elderly. With its emphasis on developing the entire person, 90% of the student body participates in extra-curricular activities.

The Hill-Murray athletics department has one of the finest histories in the State of Minnesota. In the past 5 years, Hill-Murray teams and individual athletes advanced to the Minnesota State Tournament in boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track, boys and girls golf, girls tennis, competitive cheerleading, and danceline. The boys Hockey team is regarded as one of the best in the state, and earned its 3rd State Championship in 2008.

Additionally Hill-Murray has produced 6 National Hockey League players, 3 World Hockey Association players, over 70 Division I NCAA players; 2 Major League Baseball players, and 3 Olympians including a member of the gold-medal winning 1980 U.S. Hockey team responsible for the 'Miracle on Ice.'

Mr. Speaker, in honor of all members of the Hill-Murray family, I am pleased to submit this statement for the Congressional Record recognizing the many contributions this school has made to the State of Minnesota and the United States of America during the past 50 years.

## THE DECLARATION OF OCCUPY D.C.

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

THE DECLARATION OF OCCUPY D.C.  
CONSENTED TO BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NOVEMBER 30TH, 2011

We have been captives of corrupt economic and political systems for far too long. The concentration of wealth and the purchase of political power stifle the voices of the increasingly disenfranchised 99 percent. Corporate dominance subverts democracy, intentionally sows division, destroys the environment, obstructs the just and equitable pursuit of happiness, and violates the rights and dignity of all life.

Occupy D.C. is an open community of diverse individuals, facing different forms of oppression and impacted by economic exploitation to differing degrees, but united by a shared vision of equality for the common good. The harsh economic conditions that have plagued the poor, working class, and communities of color for generations have begun to affect the previously financially secure. This acute awareness of our common fate has united us in our struggle for a better future. We recognize that inequality and injustice systemically affect every aspect of our society: our communities, homes, and hearts. To build the world we envision, we commit ourselves to overcoming our personal biases so we can successfully challenge systems of oppression in solidarity.

We are peaceably assembled at McPherson Square, practicing direct democracy on the doorstep of K Street, the epicenter of destructive corporate and governmental relationships. Recognizing that the term "occupy" is associated with exploitation, violence, and imperialism, we are reclaiming it to mean the peaceful liberation of public space. In this disenfranchised city, we are insisting that our economic and political systems serve the people's interests. Now is the time to advance and complete the struggles of the many who came before us.

We are assembled because . . . It is absurd that the 1 percent has taken 40 percent of the nation's wealth through exploiting labor, outsourcing jobs, and manipulating the tax code to their benefit through special capital tax rates and loopholes. The system is rigged in their favor, yet they cry foul when anyone even dares to question their relentless class warfare.

Candidates in our electoral system require huge sums of money to be competitive. These contributions from multi-national corporations and wealthy individuals destroy responsive representative governance. A system of backroom deals, kickbacks, bribes, and dirty politics overrides the will of the people. The rotation of decision makers between the public and private sectors cultivates a network of public officials, lobbyists, and executives whose aligned interests do not serve the American people.

The entrenched two-party system overlooks public interests by pursuing narrow political goals. This climate encourages candidates to polarize voters for individual power and personal gain. Citizens' meaningful input has been compromised by gerrymandering, voter disenfranchisement, and unresponsive politicians. Residents of Washington, D.C., continue to lack autonomy and legislative representation.

The 1 percent benefits from economic, political, and legal structures that oppress

communities long targeted by displacement, denial of sovereignty, slavery, and other injustices. These persecuted but resilient communities continue to suffer through generations of disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, poverty, criminalization, and homelessness. Facets of the 1 percent campaign to blame these groups for these problems while obstructing healing and restoration.

Those with power have divided us from working in solidarity by perpetuating historical prejudices and discrimination based on perceived race, religion, immigrant or indigenous status, income, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability, among other things. These divisions have inhibited our ability to work in solidarity, though today we recognize the power of uniting as the 99 percent.

Financial institutions gambled with our savings, homes, and economy. They collapsed the financial system and needed the public to bail them out of their failures yet deny any responsibility and continue to fight oversight. Corporations loot from those whose labor creates society's prosperity, while the government allows them to privatize profits and socialize risk.

Corporate interests threaten life on Earth by extracting and burning fossil fuels and resisting the necessary transition to renewable energy. Their drilling, mining, clear-cutting, overfishing, and factory farming destroys the land, jeopardizes our food and water, and poisons the soil with near impunity. They privilege polluters over people by subsidizing fossil fuels, blocking investments in clean energy and efficient transportation, and hiding environmental destruction from public oversight.

Private corporations, with the government's support, use common resources and infrastructure for short-term personal profit, while stifling efforts to invest in public goods.

The U.S. government engages in drawn-out, costly conflicts abroad. Numerous acts of conquest have been, and continue to be, pursued to control resources, overthrow foreign governments, and install subservient regimes. These wars destroy the lives of innocent civilians and American soldiers, many of whom suffer adverse effects throughout life. These operations are a blank check to divert money from domestic priorities.

Government authorities cultivate a culture of fear to invade our privacy, limit assembly, restrict speech, and deny due process. They have failed in their duty to protect our rights. Exacerbated by profiteering interests, the criminal justice system has unfairly targeted underprivileged communities and outspoken groups for prosecution rather than protection.

Corporatized culture warps our perception of reality. It cheapens and mocks the beauty of human thought and experience while promoting excessive materialism as the path to happiness. The corporate news media furthers the interests of the very wealthy, distorts and disregards the truth, and confines our imagination of what is possible for ourselves and society.

Leaders are trading our access to basic needs in exchange for handouts to the ultra-wealthy. Our rights to healthcare, education, food, water, and housing are sacrificed to profit-driven market forces. They are attacking unemployment insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, creating an uncertain future for us all.\*

A better world is possible.

To all people,

We, the Washington D.C. General Assembly occupying K Street in McPherson Square, urge you to assert your power.

Exercise your right to peaceably assemble and reclaim the commons. Re-conceive ways to build a democratic, just, and sustainable world.

To all who value democracy, we encourage you to collaborate and share available resources.

Join your voice with ours and let it amplify until the heart of the movement booms with our chorus of solidarity.

\*These grievances are not all inclusive.

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,098,098,486,788.82. We've added \$10,296,693,311,494.54 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. CLYDE MCINTOSH OF NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an outstanding public servant and dedicated volunteer in Yancey County, North Carolina. Mr. Clyde McIntosh of Burnsville committed his life to service and activism. After graduating from Burnsville High School in 1950, Mr. McIntosh proudly served four years in the United States Navy. Upon completion of his service, he moved back to the mountains of Western North Carolina where he built a successful real estate and development business and operated a dairy farm. During this period, he worked diligently toward the goal of preserving the rural heritage of the area.

Mr. McIntosh assumed public office when he was elected Sheriff of Yancey County in 1986. From 1999 to 2005, he served on the Board of Directors of the Yancey County Department of Social Services, spending a portion of his tenure as Chair. For many years, Mr. McIntosh was an active community volunteer for the Lions Club and Meals on Wheels.

Mr. McIntosh worked for years to educate Yancey County youth on the importance of civic engagement and community involvement. He acted as a mentor for the Young Democrats organization of Yancey County, encouraging young people to be politically active.

I commend his outstanding contributions to the Democratic Party. In April 2001, he was named Mountain Democrat of the Year and also served as the Yancey County Democratic

Party Chair. He served as Precinct Chair for both Jacks Creek and Burnsville Townships.

Our mountain community is a better place because of Mr. McIntosh's devotion to activism and service. Mr. McIntosh was an invaluable presence in the lives of the many people he inspired and helped through his work. Though he will be missed, I know this legacy will live on for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the exemplary life of Mr. Clyde McIntosh of Yancey County, North Carolina.

## WE MUST GET OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

**HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I have made it clear from the beginning that until the Senate leadership can pass a budget, the House should be using the baseline off of the framework included in the House-passed 2012 budget. The Path to Prosperity is a credible and commonsense proposal that would put our nation on the path to balanced budgets and debt reduction.

Unfortunately, the spending levels set forth in today's omnibus appropriations package exceed those numbers established in the Path to Prosperity. For this reason, I had to cast my vote against the legislation considered in the House today.

It is impossible to get our nation's fiscal house in order unless we have a budget framework to work off of. House Republicans have done their job and passed a budget, it is now time for Senate Democrats to do the same.

My constituents sent me to Washington to make the difficult spending decisions, and I'm more than willing to make them. Continuing Resolutions and omnibus packages are not the sort of bold action that the people in Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District expect. I applaud efforts by the House Leadership in which a number of our appropriations bills were considered this year under regular order and under open rules which allowed for debate and amendments. Unfortunately, this process was unable to be completed and many of the bills passed by the House have simply languished in the Senate without consideration.

I am hopeful that United States Congress will restart a process in which budgets are passed and the 12 appropriations bills are considered in an open process. Omnibus bills are unpopular to our constituents. They invite poor legislating and lead to increased spending. Our constituents expect and deserve more.

I have made a commitment to continue the fight for long-term solutions to rein in Washington's out-of-control spending, and I am appreciative of the constituents in the Fourth District of Tennessee who have sent me to Washington to do that very thing.